



**The Week of May 23, 2021
Hospitality & Love for the Church
Conversation Guide**

This Week's Take-Aways

- **Kindness:** (Matthew 7:12) I choose to treat others as I would like to be treated.
- **Goodness:** (Galatians 6:9-10) I will seek to do good to others even at great cost to myself.
- **I am engaged in the church:** (Acts 2:46-47) I consistently connect with my church body for fellowship and community while using my spiritual gifts for ministry and encouragement.
- **I show great compassion:** (Psalm 82:3-4) I actively show my caring for those who are vulnerable in real and tangible ways.

Intro Questions

- Have you ever hosted or been to a dinner party or other event where everything that could go wrong did go wrong?
- Name someone that has shown great hospitality.
- What are the fears that might keep you from having someone over to your home? (Shag carpet? Crazy pets? Unruly kids or in-laws?)

What is Hospitality?

Read Hebrews 13:1-2 (CSB)

Let brotherly love continue. Don't neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it.

- How would you define hospitality?
 - How did Pastor Scott define hospitality? (philoxenia in Greek- love for outsiders)
- Paul referred to brotherly love. Who does he consider our brother or sister (or insider)?
- Have you ever worked someone where "Secret Shoppers" would come in? How did that affect the way you did your job?
 - How should the idea of "welcoming angels" affect the way we treat others and show them hospitality?

Insider Hospitality

Read Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

- How can meeting together serve as encouragement to each other?
- What happens when we isolate ourselves from other believers?
- How easy is it to neglect relationships in our frenzied lives?
- What are some unique ways of "meeting together?"
- How urgent is it for us to meet together?



Read Matthew 25:35-40 (CSB)

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me; I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or without clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?" And the King will answer them, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

- In this passage Jesus is explaining how we know we are truly a part of God's Kingdom.
- How does being hospitable to others show our love for Jesus?

Outsider Hospitality

Read Leviticus 19:33-34 (CSB)

When an alien resides with you in your land, you must not oppress him. You will regard the alien who resides with you as the native-born among you. You are to love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.

- This isn't about UFOs! :)
- Who were the aliens to the Nation of Israel? Who are the aliens here?
- How are we called to treat aliens/foreigners and why?
- Read these statistics that Pastor Scott shared
 - 80 million displaced people in the world
 - Over 1 million int'l students in the USA
 - 2,500 int'l students at FSU from 130 different countries
 - 100 int'l students at FAMU
 - 142 int'l students at TCC
 - In a study a few years ago, it was found that ½ of int'l students say they have ZERO American friends, and more than 80% of int'l students studying in the USA go thru 4 years of school and NEVER were invited into an American's home, much less a Christian a home. These same students cited the reason being the Americans have little to no interest in other cultures.
 - There are 400-500 South Asian Indian families in Tallahassee.
 - There are nearly 30,000 Hispanics in Leon County.
- What surprised you in these? What did you already know?

Read Colossians 4:5-6 (CSB)

Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.

- What does good "salty" language sound like?
- Why do we need to be thoughtful (act wisely) in our interactions with outsiders?
- What are some winsome ways to interact with others?
- Why is it important to "make the most of the time?"

Read James 2:1-4 (CSB)

My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. For if someone comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and a poor person dressed in filthy clothes also comes in, if you look with favor on the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Sit here in a good place," and yet you say to the poor person, "Stand over there," or "Sit here on the floor by my footstool," haven't you made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

- How do we prevent showing favoritism?
- Do we find ourselves being hospitable mainly to those that can pay us back or that we can get something from?
- How do we guard our heart against this?

Next Steps

- **Hospitality Challenge!**

In the next 2 weeks, we want to encourage you, challenge you, dare you, to have someone over to your house. This might be a neighbor, or a coworker...but someone you know that you needs the ministry of hospitality, company, companionship. Have a BBQ, host a block party with neighbors, roast S'mores around the firepit.

Then, we want you to get on the app and share your story or experience in how you carried out this assignment.

You will then be entered into a drawing to win a "hospitality prize pack" from the Prepared Table to help encourage and enhance your household's hospitality ministry.

Start a guest list and pray for them now!
